

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-44 are pending in this application.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The amendment to base claims 21 and 43 addresses the Examiner's concerns, as claims 22 and 44 each add the limitation that the removing of an indication of another face within the image is performed manually.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 112, second paragraph

Claim 15 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 103

Claims 1-11, 13-19, 21-33, 35-41 and 43-44 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Needham et al. (US2002/00181801) in view of Hagiwara et al. (US6,816,611). Claims 1-11, 13-19, 21-33, 35-41 and 43-44, as now amended, are allowable, because no combination of Needham et al. and Hagiwara et al. teaches or suggests all of the recited elements of any of these amended claims.

Claims 12 and 34 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Needham et al. (US2002/00181801) in view of Hagiwara et al. (US6,816,611) in further view of Ray et al. (US6,940,545). Claims 12 and 44 are allowable respectively as being dependent from amended claims 1 and 43, which are allowable because no combination of Needham et al., Hagiwara et al. and Ray et al. teaches or suggests all of the recited elements of amended claim 1 nor amended claim 43.

Claims 20 and 42 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Needham et al. (US2002/00181801) in view of Hagiwara et al. (US6,816,611) in further view of Kinjo et al. (US7,106,887). Claims 20 and 42 are allowable respectively as being dependent from amended claims 15 and 37, which are allowable because no combination of Needham et al., Hagiwara et al. and Kinjo et al. teaches or suggests all of the recited elements of amended claim 15 nor amended claim 37.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner's reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at 415-203-2782 to discuss any further questions or concerns.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 50-4399.

Respectfully submitted,

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